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ART AND PROGRESS

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Published by the American Federation of Arts
215 West 57th Street, New York, N. Y.
1741 New York Ave., Washington, D. C.

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THE EDITOR,

1741 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$2.50 A YEAR

VOL. VI JULY, 1915 No. 9

JOHN W. ALEXANDER

John W. Alexander, eminent artist and constant friend of the American Federation of Arts, died at his home in New York City on May 31st. Words cannot express our sense of loss and grief. Mr. Alexander was one of the foremost—if not the foremost—in his profession, but he invariably held himself as one of the least. He was a true artist in feeling and temperament and his heart was in his work, but he was a man of broad sympathies and interests, and gave himself freely to every effort which had as its object the enrichment of life. It is not necessary to enumerate these—they were many and are well known, but it should be noted that the world has lost a large-hearted, public-spirited citizen as well as a great artist.

Of Mr. Alexander's achievements as a painter much is to be said—much which cannot be said at this time. His paintings not only had distinction but rare quality—and, happily, they will endure.

All of Mr. Alexander's work bore the

stamp of his personality, which, while entirely individual, was strong yet extraordinarily gentle and engaging. Though having of necessity definite opinions, strong likes and dislikes, he was most tolerable toward the divergent opinions of others, most patient and kind in consideration and treatment, of those whose ways were opposed to his own.

He received many honors, all it would seem within the gift of his confrères, yet the compliment that he most cherished was one that came from the lips of a little child whose portrait he painted.

Mr. Alexander was associated with the American Federation of Arts from the time of its organization in 1909, serving as a vice-president and as a member of the board of directors. He was one of the first guarantors of ART AND PROGRESS, and took a keen interest in the development of the magazine. Never was he too busy to give thought and attention to matters concerning the Federation—his confidence in the ultimate worth of which was unswerving. The value of such interest and support is inestimable.

The same course of conduct was followed in many other lines of activity. Mr. Alexander was long president of the National Academy of Design, of the School Art League, of the MacDowell Club; indeed there seems to have been no end to the claims made upon his thought and time.

Some may feel that he gave himself too freely and thus spent himself too soon, but it is more reasonable to believe that he found richer expression by thus giving his life lavishly and without stint, and that his own production, though possibly on this account, circumscribed in quantity, was finer in quality because of the spirit of generosity which determined and dominated all of his deeds. Surely no mere achievement could have been so significant as the splendid record of useful service that Mr. Alexander has left.

We mourn not for him, to whom honor will ever be paid as a painter of imaginative quality and supreme skill—a revealer of beauty, a great artist—but rather for ourselves, to whom the removal of his personality and comradeship will mean irretrievable loss.